



Book Industry
Communication

BIC Task and Finish Working Group

Project Name: EUDR Practicalities: Part 2 2026 Changes to the Regulation

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BIC Project Brief

The Purpose of the BIC Project Brief

The BIC Project Brief is required to enable necessary projects or pieces of work to progress from being a good BIC Board or Committee idea to a formal request for work that is submitted to the appropriate Task and Finish Working Group and/ or consultant. The BIC Project Brief must be agreed upon and signed off initially by all members of the BIC Committee responsible for the project and then by the dedicated Task & Finish Working Group (if applicable, depending on the nature of the project) once established.

The BIC Project Brief should generally be short and provide an overview of the proposed project or piece of work.

The finalised, signed off document will be made available to all BIC members, who will be able to provide comment or feedback on the intended project or work.

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BIC Board/ Committee Review

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BIC Board/ Committee Final Approval

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1. Purpose and background

The EU regulation EUDR (European Union Deforestation Regulation) is currently dominating the book industry supply chain. The purpose of this regulation is to prove that any of seven commodities cited, that are being imported and exported in the EU region, are not causing any deforestation or land degradation. Timber and its derivative products are one of the commodities covered by the regulation.

On the 18 December 2025, the EU Parliament and Council approved a further 12-month delay to the implementation of the regulation. At the same time, they also approved the removal of [Chapter 49](#) products from the regulation. Chapter 49 commodity codes refer to printed matter such as books and journals. It should be noted that there are some commodities such as notebooks and types of calendars that fall into [Chapter 48](#) and these are still covered by the regulation.

The EU Parliament and Council have instructed the EU Commission to assess ways that the regulation could be simplified and reduce the administrative burden on organisations. This report has to be completed by the 30 April 2026. The regulation goes live on the 30 December 2026.

Up and down the book industry supply chain, organisations are trying to establish how they are going to operate under the regulation. For many in the book industry this means tracing the supply of all paper and/or those products that sit within Chapter 48, back to the geolocations where the trees grew. This will mean process and system changes for some organisations.

In the simplest terms this geolocation data along with the species names of the trees used to make the batch of paper are used to create a Due Diligence Statement (DDS).

During 2025 BIC ran the EUDR Practicalities: A BIC Fast Track Project. Although the original project ran for two months during June and July 2025 and delivered [BIC's EUDR Helpful Information Guidance](#), the Task and Finish Working Group (T&FWG) continued to meet on a regular basis until the end of the year. The T&FWG continued to meet to monitor the changing landscape of EUDR as the year progressed. In light of the changes to the regulation the work completed by BIC now needs to be reviewed and updated information provided to the book industry supply chain.

2. Project Definition and Scope

As mentioned above, the current situation is Chapter 49 printed matter (books and journals etc.) has been removed from the regulation, but Chapter 48 (some notebooks, diaries, and calendars) has not. This leaves a number of open questions:

- What happens to stock in the transition period?
- What do these changes mean for paper, and other printed matter and the flow of data and the creation of Due Diligence Statements?
- Do these changes to the regulation open up the EU to receiving goods that might have caused deforestation?
- Is it possible to have the commodity codes in the metadata or made available to the supply chain?

The aim of this new project is two-fold:

Now - Part 2(a):

- i. to see if the removal of Chapter 49 commodity codes from the regulation means BIC needs to update its published guidance now (at time of writing), and
- ii. to review the data flow maps in light of the revised legislation and
- iii. to then update both BIC's published guidance and data flow maps to reflect the situation today if this is possible and deemed necessary (at time of writing).

The aim of the above being to make sure the guidance and data flow maps being provided to the book industry supply chain are as accurate as they can be based on current knowledge and understanding

Following the publication of EU Commission's simplification report Part 2(b):

- i. to understand what the changes to the regulation mean for the book industry supply chain in light of the report
- ii. to update BIC's published guidance and data flow maps to reflect.

Part 2(a) of this project can start now, and Part 2(b) will have to wait until the EU Commission publishes their simplification requirements of the regulation at the end of April 2026 to see if this further clarifies or changes how EUDR is going to operate and make sure the BIC guidance is up-to-date.

The project team will be made up of select number of people that are already members of the T&FWG. BIC will consider new project members on the understanding that they are first fully up to speed with the project to date.

It should be noted that the outcomes from this project are not to be construed as legal advice and the BIC members participating in the project, and individuals reading the final documentation as a result of this project, should still consult with their own legal counsel.

3. Timescale

The aim is to complete Part 2(a) by the end of February 2026, and Part 2(b) by the end of July 2026, dependant on what the new changes are to the regulation.

The project team or teams will each meet on a weekly basis or as deemed necessary. The meetings will be recorded for those who cannot attend.

4. Deliverables

- I. A revised set of "Data Flow" maps
- II. A revised set of "Practical Guidelines" for affected organisations across the supply chain to help them navigate EUDR implementation
- III. Project closure report, detailing recommendations for next steps (if any) to be submitted to the Executive Director – for onward circulation to the BIC Board and Green Supply Chain committee.